

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND ON ENHANCING COOPERATION ON FISHERIES

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Iceland (hereinafter referred to as the 'Participants'),

RECALLING the close relations between the Participants;

HAVING REGARD to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

AWARE of the importance of the principles established by the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted at the FAO Conference in 1995;

RECOGNISING the need to cooperate, in their mutual interest, to promote responsible fisheries to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources;

DETERMINED to ensure that the management of fisheries and aquaculture is based on the best available scientific advice;

COMMITTED to ensuring that fisheries and aquaculture are managed using a science-based, ecosystem approach, including to minimise their negative impacts on other parts of the marine ecosystem;

HAVING REGARD to the Joint Vision for 2030 – Enhancing Cooperation between Iceland and the United Kingdom, signed in duplicate at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Reykjavik, on 14 May 2020 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Joint Vision');

REAFFIRMING their commitments, as recorded at paragraph 2 of the Joint Vision, to:

Enhance cooperation on fisheries and encourage sectoral collaboration and the sharing of expertise in sustainable fisheries management in order to promote profitable and sustainable fishing industries;

Hold an annual fisheries dialogue to support economic, sustainable and responsible long-term marine and fisheries policies, particularly in the North Atlantic, promoting regional and international cooperation on sustainable migratory stock management; and

Bring businesses together to promote innovation in fisheries and processing that optimises the use of raw material and to support increased use of scientific research and innovation;

WISHING to decide upon practical arrangements for the implementation of those commitments;

Enter into the following arrangements:

1. The Participants will work together via the UK-Iceland Fisheries Dialogue (hereinafter referred to as 'the Fisheries Dialogue'), through which the Participants will discuss, share information and cooperate on fisheries matters, including but not limited to:
 - a. Fisheries management, including the Participants' respective fisheries management systems and their respective systems for fisheries monitoring, control and enforcement;
 - b. Issues related to capture fisheries, aquaculture, and processing (including, in relation to all these areas: enhancing innovation; minimising waste; the traceability and marketing of fisheries products; and the optimisation of value, distribution, and transport);
 - c. Facilitating and enhancing cooperation between the Participants' respective private sectors in relation to the issues described at sub-paragraph b.;
 - d. Matters addressed within relevant fisheries-related international fora, including possibilities for mutual support within such fora. This will include regional fora, such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission and consultations on shared stocks between coastal states in the North-East Atlantic, and global fora, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations; and
 - e. Scientific and academic knowledge, practices and experiences, including facilitating and enhancing cooperation between scientists, research institutes and academic bodies.
2. Through the Fisheries Dialogue, the Participants may also:
 - a. Bring together businesses, and other private sector organisations, to promote innovation in fisheries, processing and marketing that optimises the use of resources, and to support the increased use of scientific research and innovation;
 - b. Arrange meetings involving experts to discuss specific issues; and
 - c. Establish projects to address specific issues and expand bilateral cooperation.
3. The Fisheries Dialogue will consist of formal meetings, which will take place not less than annually, and other ad hoc meetings and communications between the Participants. The formal meetings will, *inter alia*, assess the overall progress of the Fisheries Dialogue and prioritise activities, as appropriate.

4. The Participants will decide on the time and place of meetings of the Fisheries Dialogue and will endeavour to alternate the locations of the formal meetings referred to in paragraph 3 between Iceland and the UK.
5. Each Participant will nominate a principal representative for the formal meetings referred to in paragraph 3. The Participants will notify each other of any changes in principal representative. The principal representative may also:
 - a. Nominate other members of the delegation to attend the formal meetings;
 - b. Nominate members of the delegation to be assigned to specific parts of the Fisheries Dialogue;
 - c. Invite experts and other advisers to attend meetings of the Fisheries Dialogue as appropriate.
6. The principal representatives may, at the formal meetings referred to in paragraph 3, decide to formulate joint conclusions that they consider appropriate to bring to the attention of their respective authorities.
7. This Memorandum of Understanding:
 - a. Will come into effect on 1 January 2021; and
 - b. Will continue in effect until terminated by either Participant giving six months' written notice to the other.

The foregoing represents the understandings reached by the Participants on the matters referred to in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in duplicate at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, London and the Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Reykjavik on 11 November 2020 in the English language.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

For the Government of Iceland:

Victoria Prentis
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Kristján Þór Júlíusson
Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture